

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 2 and 7-9, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A ~~fabrication~~ method ~~[[of]]~~ for fabricating a liquid crystal display panel by the liquid crystal falling drop method, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping a volume of liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel due to a difference between said atmosphere pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to ~~[[a]]~~ the volume of said liquid crystal,

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wherein at least one of said first spacers is elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first spacers are deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the relative value is $(105 \pm 2)\%$.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A ~~fabrication~~ method [[of]] for fabricating a liquid crystal display panel by the liquid crystal falling drop method, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

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arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping a volume liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to [[a]] the volume of said liquid crystal,

wherein at least one of said first spacers are elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed and said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A fabrication method [[of]] for fabricating a liquid crystal display panel by the liquid crystal falling drop method, comprising the steps of:

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forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping a volume liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to [[a]] the volume of said liquid crystal,

wherein at least one of said first spacers is elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed and said first spacer is deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): A fabrication method [[of]] for fabricating a liquid crystal display panel by the liquid crystal falling drop method, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping a volume liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber without hardening said seal member;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers together with said liquid crystal through a deformation of said panel such that said deformation of said panel proceeds in a center portion of said panel at higher speed than that in a peripheral portion thereof due to a difference between atmospheric pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel, wherein said first spacers located at a central portion of said panel is deformed firstly together with said liquid crystal to provide an appropriate cell gap prior to said seal member being deformed; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to [[a]] the volume of said liquid crystal, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

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